

Application No.: 09/682,227
Attorney Docket No. 52493.000103

The Office Action asserts that the inventions are distinct, each from the other because of various reasons. In summary, the Office Action asserts that Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination, and sets forth the basis of the asserted distinctiveness. Further, the Office Action asserts that Inventions I and III are related as process and apparatus for its practice; and that Inventions II and III are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The Office Action asserts that because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

B. ELECTION

In the event that the election requirement is not withdrawn, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Invention III of Claims 11-25, with traverse.

C. CLARIFICATION OF THE REQUIREMENT

Applicant respectfully requests clarification of the Requirement. In the Office Action, pending claim 10 was not included in a group. Applicant submits that claim 10 should be included in Group 3, in that claim 11, for example, depends upon claim 10.

D. TRAVERSAL

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement. It is respectfully submitted that, due to the related subject matter of the claims (and since all the Groups possess the same classification), a complete and thorough search of the claims identified above as belonging to Group III would involve a search of the areas relevant to the non-elected claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the burden on the Examiner does not warrant requiring Applicant to pay duplicative PTO fees and perform duplicative prosecution to obtain patent protection for the present invention.

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E CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that no fees are necessary in connection with the filing of this document. In the event any fees are necessary, please charge or credit any such fees, including fees for any extensions of time, to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

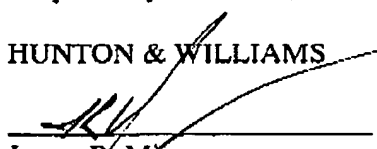
The Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below if any assistance might be provided to the Examiner in the examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS

Date: October 17, 2005

By:


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